

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO AND THE CANARIES -- SETTING THE
RECORD STRAIGHT

1. ONLY BECAUSE IT HAS DRAWN CERTAIN ATTENTION IN SPAIN
AND NOW ALSO, WE ARE TOLD BY THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY,
PERHAPS IN WASHINGTON, WE REPORT A SPECULATIVE MAY 26
FRONT-PAGE STORY IN THE MADRID DAILY "EL PAIS" (WHICH
OPPOSES SPANISH MEMBERSHIP) PURPORTING TO HAVE LEARNED
FROM HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES HOW THE GOS PLANS TO HANDLE
THE SPAIN-NATO MATTER.

2. THE STORY CLAIMS, INTER ALIA, THAT

-- THE GOS WILL OPEN THE FORMAL DEBATE IN 1979, AIMING
- TO COMPLETE AT LEAST "POLITICAL PREPARATIONS" BEFORE
- THE TREATY WITH THE U.S. EXPIRES IN 1981;

-- POLITICAL ADHESION TO NATO WILL COME FIRST; IN ENSUING
- MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS SPAIN WILL ASK
- --EXCLUSION OF THE CANARIES FROM THE NATO AREA,
- --AN AGREEMENT ON GIBRALTAR,

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- --NEITHER FOREIGN TROOPS IN SPAIN NOR SPANISH TROOPS
- ABROAD, AND
- --NO ATOMIC WEAPONS IN SPAIN.

-- PRE-NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ALLIES ARE PLANNED; FOREIGN
- MINISTER OREJA PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER OR
- NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER;

-- THE GOS HAS NOTED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE CHANGE IN SOCIALIST (PSOE) AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTY VIEWS ON THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER;

-- WHILE THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE PENTAGON FAVOR EARLY SPANISH MEMBERSHIP, THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAVORS DELAYING UNTIL MID OR LATE 1981; AND SO ON AND SO FORTH.

3. THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE, WHEN ASKED BY AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL FOR HIS SOURCE, RESPONDED THAT IN FACT HE HAD NO PARTICULAR SOURCE. THE PSOE'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY HAS PUBLICLY DENIED THAT THE PARTY'S VIEWPOINT HAS CHANGED. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE DEBUNKED THE ARTICLE IN PRIVATE.

4. OF SUFFICIENT CONCERN TO THE MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS (DURAN) FOR HIM TO RAISE IT WITH THE CHARGE WAS THE ARTICLE'S CLAIM ABOUT THE CANARIES. DURAN ASSUMES THE CLAIM MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON A MISSTATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SUAREZ TO THE PRESS DURING HIS VISIT TO THE CANARIES SOME WEEKS AGO, THE RESULT OF BAD BRIEFING BY HIS ENTOURAGE ON THE EXTENT OF THE NATO AREA. AT THAT TIME, SUAREZ REPORTEDLY SAID THE CANARIES WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE NATO AREA. IN FACT, THE GOS POSITION IS THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO SPAIN TO HAVE THE CANARIES COVERED BY NATO. HOWEVER, NO FOREIGN MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCE WOULD BE DESIRED. (THIS VIEW IS NOT SHARED BY THE PSOE OR BY SOME OTHER OPPONENTS OF SPANISH ENTRY, PROBABLY INCLUDING THE EDITORS OF "EL PAIS.") EATON

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